

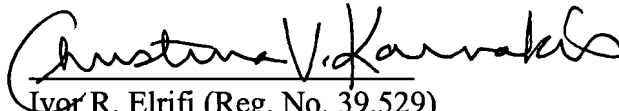
the cells are transplanted, a therapeutic benefit may be provided. First, after transplantation, these cells have been shown to actively secrete cellular products, such as peptides. Second, these cells have also been shown to differentiate *in vivo* after transplantation into tissue-environment appropriate cell lineages that may replace diseased or damaged tissue or may repair such tissues.

As discussed with the Examiner, Applicant will submit a further inventor declaration detailing the evidence in support of the foregoing.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 26, 27, 32-37, and 39-62 be withdrawn. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ivor R. Elrifi (Reg. No. 39,529)

Christina V. Karnakis (Reg. No. 45,899)

Attorneys for Applicant

c/o MINTZ LEVIN

One Financial Center

Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Telephone: (617) 542-6000

Telefax: (617) 542-2241